

b3 --34. (new) The filter of claim 27, wherein said blood filter layer comprises a fabric structure with one or more layers.--

Please charge the fee of \$126.00 for the extra seven dependent claim added herewith, to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein and an abstract has been added on a separate sheet to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-7 were pending. These claims have been replaced with new claims 8-34 that are believed to be proper as to form. Consideration and allowance of the new claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7 were rejected as anticipated by ANDELMANN 5,748,437 and claims 3 and 6 were rejected as unpatentable over ANDELMANN. The new claims avoid these rejections and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The new claims are directed to embodiments of the present invention that include a coiled core with a hollow center. The core has only two layers that are coiled atop one another, the two layers being a blood filter layer and a spacer layer where blood flows more easily through the spacer layer than

through the filter layer. An outer side of one of the spacer layer and the filter layer defines an outer circumference of the core. The filter and spacer layers are coiled so that both sides of the filter layer directly contact respective sides of the spacer layer. A casing for the core has a blood inlet in fluid communication with the outer circumference of the core and a blood outlet in fluid communication with the hollow center. Blood entering the inlet travels to the outlet within the spacer layer and transversely across the filter and spacer layers.

ANDELMANN relates to a liquid separation system for removing components by means of charge chromatography. The reference discloses a three-layer laminate (not two) with an anode, a cathode and a non-conducting spacer therebetween. ANDELMANN does not disclose a filter with only two layers that are coiled atop one another, the two layers being a blood filter layer and a spacer layer, where blood flows more easily through the spacer layer than through the filter layer, and where the filter and spacer layers are coiled so that both sides of the filter layer directly contact respective sides of the spacer layer. The reference also does not disclose a casing for the core that has a blood inlet in fluid communication with the outer circumference of the core and a blood outlet in fluid communication with the hollow center, where blood entering the inlet travels to the outlet within the spacer layer and transversely across the filter and spacer layers.

IWAMOTO et al. S.N. 09/700,031

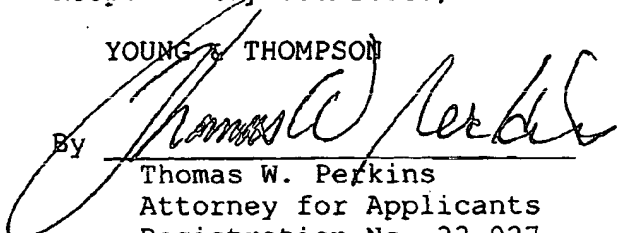
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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January 3, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, the paragraph beginning on line 12 has been amended as follows:

--The inventors earnestly studied for a cause of the above-mentioned rise of the pressure loss in a filter. As a result, the following were revealed. In a conventional filter, [a] large [amount] amounts of an object to be removed are trapped in the [filter narrows] narrow channels in the filter [resulting in making] impairing a smooth blood flow [difficult] and [raising a] increasing pressure. However, the rise of the pressure loss in a filter [described above] was not brought about as a [resultor] result of an object to be removed as found in a conventional filter, but instead by [characterisnes] characteristics specific to blood. In other words, the inventors found [out] that the rise of the pressure loss was caused by platelets and other coagulation factors in blood which were activated by their sudden contact with a filter material [and formed] forming a blocking membrane, [resulting in] disturbing a smooth blood flow.--.